



Department for
Business, Innovation,
Science and Trade

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Appointment of the Chair of British Steel Limited

Dear Liam,

As you know, the Government took the decision on the 16 July to nationalise British Steel Limited. This followed an assessment of the public interest test set out in the Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Act 2026. The decisive action taken secured its immediate future, providing certainty to the steelmaking communities that have underpinned the business for decades. It also helped to protect our domestic capability in line with our steel strategy.

Given the significant public and parliamentary interest in this issue, it is important that there is transparency about the approach going forward and the progress being made with the company. I am writing to you in that spirit, and I look forward to ongoing engagement on British Steel.

Whilst recognising the challenges facing the UK steel sector, the Government wants to see a bright future for the business and the first step towards that is putting in place a strong and experienced leadership team.

I am therefore delighted to inform you that I have appointed Alan Lovell as the new chair of British Steel. Alan brings a wealth of boardroom experience to the role and has led the turnaround and transformation of organisations across a number of sectors throughout his career. Alan took up his role on 14 September, and I am looking forward to working closely with him on our shared ambition for the company.

It is important that the new board has autonomy to deploy their commercial expertise at arm's length from Government but also that the public policy goals that necessitated intervention are the driving force behind its strategy. The Government will shortly be publishing a framework document, in line with Managing Public Money requirements for publicly owned companies, that will set out British Steel's relationship with the Department as its sole shareholder.

The board will be asked to develop a cost-effective transformation plan to deliver a modern and competitive steelmaking enterprise that supports the UK Steel Strategy, including exploring possible options for private sector investment.

Alan has also been asked to consider how best to implement changes that improve the company's health and safety performance.

At an appropriate time once the board has progressed its strategic planning around these objectives, I am sure Alan would be very happy to keep the Committee up to date time to progress the required strategic planning, he would be very happy to keep the Committee up to date with developments at British Steel.

I know that you will want to wish Alan every success in the role and will share the Government's desire to continue to support this strategically important company. I look forward to your ongoing engagement.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

THE RT HON JONATHAN REYNOLDS MP

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science & Trade and President of the Board
of Trade